

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-13, and 15-31 have been amended herein. All of the pending claims 1 through 31 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

1. (Currently Amended) A steel body rotary drag bit for drilling a subterranean formation, comprising:
a steel bit body having a centerline and including a leading end having generally radially extending blades for contacting a formation during drilling;
~~a at least one~~ cutting element pocket comprising a substantially arcuate surface and a substantially planar surface ~~for attaching a cutting element thereto;~~
a cutting element disposed within each of the at least one cutting element pocket, wherein the cutting element comprises ~~having~~ a substantially cylindrical body, a cutting face, and a substantially planar surface distal to the cutting face ~~affixed within the cutting element pocket;~~ and
wherein ~~the each of the at least one~~ cutting element pocket comprises a support element affixed to the bit ~~body,~~ body and each of the at least one cutting element pocket is configured to matingly engage at least a portion of the substantially planar surface distal to the cutting face of the cutting element disposed therein;
wherein the support element forms at least the substantially planar surface of each of the at least one cutting element pocket. ~~and is configured to matingly engage at least a portion of the substantially planar surface of the cutting element distal to the cutting face thereof.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 1, wherein the support element of each of the at least one cutting element pocket is affixed to the bit body by at least one of welding, brazing, press-fit, and shrink-fit.

3. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 1, wherein the support element of each of the at least one cutting element pocket is sized and configured to support the cutting element against forces applied thereto during drilling.

4. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ cutting element disposed within each of the at least one cutting element pocket comprises a polycrystalline diamond compact.

5. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 1, wherein the support element of each of the at least one cutting element pocket comprises steel or tungsten carbide.

6. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 1, wherein ~~the one~~ or more support element of the at least one cutting element pocket includes an aperture and is affixed to the bit body by way of an anchor element extending therethrough.

7. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 6, wherein the anchor element of each of the one or more support element is press-fit into a retention recess within the bit body.

8. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 6, wherein the anchor element of each of the one or more support is deformed within at least one of the aperture of the support element and a retention recess in the drill bit.

9. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 2, wherein ~~the one~~ or more support element of the at least one cutting element pocket forms more than one surface of the at least one cutting element pocket.

10. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 9, wherein the one or more support element forming more than one surface of the at least one cutting element pocket is configured to contact at least a portion of the circumference of the cutting element disposed therein.

11. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 9, wherein ~~the~~one or more support element forming more than one surface of the at least one cutting element pocket forms substantially the entire cutting element pocket.

12. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 9, wherein ~~the~~one or more support element forming more than one surface of the at least one cutting element pocket is press fit into a retention recess formed within the drill bit body.

13. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 1, further comprising a secondary structure affixed to the steel drill bit body disposed within a cavity positioned rotationally trailing the support element of one or more of the at least one cutting element pocket.

14. (Original) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 13, wherein the secondary structure comprises tungsten carbide.

15. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 1, wherein one or more of the at least one cutting element pocket surrounds more than half of a cross-sectional circumference of the cutting element disposed therein.

16. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 15, wherein ~~the~~one or more support element of the one or more cutting element pocket surrounding more than half of

a cross-sectional circumference of the cutting element disposed therein is affixed to the bit body by at least one of welding, brazing, press-fit, and shrink-fit.

17. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 15, wherein ~~the one~~ or more support element of the one or more cutting element pocket surrounding more than half of a cross-sectional circumference of the cutting element disposed therein includes an aperture and is affixed to the bit body by way of an anchor element extending therethrough.

18. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 15, wherein ~~the one~~ or more support element of the one or more cutting element pocket surrounding more than half of a cross-sectional circumference of the cutting element disposed therein is configured to contact at least a portion of the circumference of the cutting element.

19. (Currently Amended) The steel body rotary drag bit of claim 18, wherein ~~the one~~ or more support element configured to contact at least a portion of the circumference of the cutting element forms substantially the entire cutting element pocket.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a steel body rotary drag bit, comprising:
providing a steel bit body having a centerline and including a leading end having a plurality of generally radially extending blades for contacting a formation during drilling;
forming ~~a~~ at least one cutting element pocket, the wherein forming each of the at least one cutting element pocket comprising comprises:

forming a recess extending at least partially between the leading face and trailing face of at least one generally radially extending blade; ~~and~~
forming a retention recess that at least partially intersects the recess within the at least one generally radially extending blade;

~~wherein forming a cutting pocket comprises~~ forming a substantially arcuate surface and a substantially planar surface for matingly engaging at least a portion of a substantially planar surface of a generally cylindrical cutting element distal to the cutting face thereof; and
~~wherein affixing the a support element affixed to the bit body by way of the retention recess~~ and positioning the support element so as to forms-form at least the substantially planar surface of the cutting element pocket;
~~providing disposing~~ a cutting element within each of the at least one cutting element pocket, each cutting element having a substantially cylindrical body, a cutting face, and a substantially planar surface distal to the cutting face;
abutting the substantially planar surface distal to the cutting face of the cutting element ~~with~~ against the substantially planar surface of the at least one cutting element pocket within which the cutting element is disposed; ~~and~~
~~affixing a support element to the steel bit body by way of the retention recess.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising affixing ~~a the~~ generally cylindrical cutting element ~~within to each of the~~ at least one cutting element pocket.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein affixing ~~the one or more~~ support element of the at least one cutting element pocket to the bit body comprises deforming an anchor element ~~therethrough, therethrough.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein affixing ~~the one or more~~ support element of the at least one cutting element pocket to the bit body comprises deforming an anchor element thereagainst.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein affixing ~~the one or more~~ support element of the at least one cutting element pocket to the bit body comprises deforming an anchor element within the retention recess.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein affixing ~~the one or more~~ support element of the at least one cutting element pocket to the bit body comprises ~~affixing the support element to the bit body comprises~~ at least one of welding, brazing, press-fitting, and shrink-fitting.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein affixing a support element to the bit body by way of the retention recess and positioning the support element so as to form at least the substantially planar surface of the cutting element pocket comprises affixing the positioning the support element so as to form support element to the bit body forms substantially the entire cutting pocket.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of repairing a steel body rotary drag bit, comprising:
providing a steel bit body having a centerline and including a leading end having a plurality of generally radially extending blades for contacting a formation during drilling;
forming ~~a~~ at least one cutting element pocket, wherein forming each of the at least one cutting element pocket comprises ~~the forming comprising~~:

forming a recess extending at least partially between the leading face and trailing face of at least one of the plurality of generally radially extending blades;
forming a retention recess that at least partially intersects the recess within the at least one generally radially extending blade; and
~~affixing a support element to the steel bit body by way of the retention recess;~~
~~wherein forming a cutting pocket comprises~~ forming a substantially arcuate surface and a substantially planar surface for matingly engaging at least a

portion of a substantially planar surface of a generally cylindrical cutting element distal to the cutting face thereof; and
affixing a support element to the steel bit body by way of the retention recess and
positioning the support element so as to form at least the substantially
planar surface of the cutting element pocket;
disposing a cutting element within each of the at least one cutting element pocket, each providing
a cutting element having a substantially cylindrical body, a cutting face, and a
substantially planar surface distal to the cutting face;
abutting the substantially planar surface distal to the cutting face of the cutting element with the
substantially planar surface of the at least one cutting element pocket within which it is
disposed;
affixing the cutting element within the at least one cutting element pocket within which it is
disposed;
drilling with the steel body rotary drill-bit bit;
removing the cutting element from the at least one cutting element pocket within which it is
disposed; and
replacing the cutting element of at least one of the at least one cutting element pocket with
another cutting element.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein affixing ~~the one or more~~
support element of the at least one cutting element pocket to the bit body comprises at least one
of welding, brazing, press-fitting, and shrink-fitting.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein affixing the cutting
element within the at least one cutting element pocket within which it is disposed comprises
affixing a polycrystalline diamond compact within the cutting element pocket within which it is
disposed.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein replacing the cutting element of at least one of the at least one cutting element pocket with another cutting element comprises affixing another polycrystalline diamond compact within the at least one of the at least one cutting element pocket cutting element pocket.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein replacing the cutting element of at least one of the at least one cutting element pocket with another cutting element comprises removing the support element of the at least one of the at least one cutting element pocket and replacing the support element with another support element.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to FIG. 3F. This sheet, which includes FIG. 3F, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 3D, 3E, and 3F.